

# A Journey with Christ the Messiah

## The Messiah Prophesied

### Deuteronomy 18:21-22, 13:1-4

#### INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are continuing a new series that I have entitled *A Journey with Christ the Messiah*. Last week we looked at some of the prophecies concerning the birth of the Messiah and how Jesus fulfilled those prophecies.

Through this journey, our goal will be to fully understand that Jesus WAS Who He claimed to be, the Messiah, the Son of God and the Son of man. During this journey we will also fully understand that the Bible HAS to be the inspired Word of God.

The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed. The New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.

The New Testament was **not** written to **prove** that Jesus was the Messiah. It was written to proclaim the Messiah.

Prophecy is history written before it happens. Prophecy is perhaps one of the greatest reasons why we know that the Bible is true. One Bible scholar has determined that the Bible contains 8,362 predictions, most of which have already been fulfilled (with the exception of the second coming of Christ and the end of times). The amazing thing is that out of these eight-thousand prophecies not one of them has ever been wrong - the Bible has an 100% accuracy rate.

Of those 8,362 predictions it is estimated that there are 324 specific prophecies that were fulfilled by Christ. Some of these prophecies were very specific and detailed.

Let's continue the journey!

In the Old Testament, the Bible gives two fairly easy to understand passages about determining if someone is a **true** prophet of God. One is making specific predictions that does come to pass:

#### All Stand and Read Scripture

##### Deuteronomy 18:21-22 (NASB)

<sup>21</sup> You may say in your heart, 'How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' <sup>22</sup> When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

But it is not just enough that the prophet is accurate. Notice also the following:

## Deuteronomy 13:1-4 (NASB)

13 “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, <sup>2</sup> and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,’ <sup>3</sup> you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>4</sup> You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.

So, if the prophet does not keep and advocate keeping God's commandments, he is also a false prophet.

As we prepare to continue this journey, let's bow in a word of prayer.

## Prayer

We continue to be amazed at the depth and detail to which you go to show us your truth. We thank you, Father, that you made it so abundantly clear that Jesus was in fact fulfilling every specific prophesy required to be the Messiah. He came as our King, Redeemer, and Savior. We believe that He came to seek and to save that which was lost and we thank you for our salvation! Help us to fully commit our lives to Him through faith.

I pray that for every soul here will know this Messiah that you sent to us 2000 years ago. We especially thank you that you were willing to let Him die on the cross to save us from our sins and make us righteous before you. We thank you for your blessings and the assurance of an eternity in Heaven in the glory of your presence.

Thank you again for your Word and the great truth revealed there. May the Holy Spirit reveal to us the truths that are hidden in these pages in order that our faith may be strengthened and our testimony may be stronger. We give **you** all the glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## BODY:

### I. MESSIANIC PROPHECY FULFILLED BY JESUS.

This morning I would like to briefly point out just eight of these prophecies that were literally fulfilled in Jesus.

#### **A. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM.**

The prophet Micah predicted that the Christ would be born in Bethlehem.

#### Micah 5:2 (NASB)

<sup>2</sup> “But as for you, **Bethlehem** Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”

Matthew 2:1 says, Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king,

In Matthew 2:6 the chief priests and scribes quoted Micah 5:2 as the place where the Christ would be born.

## **B. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE PRECEDED BY A MESSENGER.**

In the last book of the Old Testament, which was written about 450 years before John the Baptist began his ministry, God spoke through the prophet Malachi.

Malachi 3:1 (NASB)

3 “Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts.

Jesus noted that this prediction was fulfilled in Luke 7:27.

Luke 7:27 (NASB)

<sup>27</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, ‘BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.’

## **C. THE MESSIAH WOULD ENTER JERUSALEM ON A DONKEY.**

Third, the Messiah would enter Jerusalem on a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9 (NASB)

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

This prediction is fulfilled and is recorded in Luke.

Luke 19:35-37 (NASB)

<sup>35</sup> They brought it to Jesus, and they threw their coats on the colt and put Jesus *on it*.  
<sup>36</sup> As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road. <sup>37</sup> As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen,

## **D. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BETRAYED BY A FRIEND.**

Psalm 41:9 predicts...

Psalm 41:9 (NASB)

<sup>9</sup> Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.

Its fulfillment is found in Matthew 10:4b, “. . . and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.”

## **E. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE SOLD FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER.**

Zechariah 11:12 (NASB)

<sup>12</sup> I said to them, "If it is good in your sight, give *me* my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty *shekels* of silver as my wages.

This prediction is fulfilled in Matthew 26.

Matthew 26:14-15 (NASB)

Judas's Bargain

<sup>14</sup> Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him.

## **F. THE THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER WOULD PURCHASE A POTTER'S FIELD.**

Zechariah states...

Zechariah 11:13b (NASB)

<sup>13</sup> ...So I took the thirty *shekels* of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

After Judas saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and the elders and threw it on the floor of the temple.

Matthew 27:7 (NASB)

<sup>7</sup> And they conferred together and with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers.

## **G. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE SILENT BEFORE HIS ACCUSERS.**

Isaiah 53:7 (NASB)

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

We find its fulfillment in Matthew.

Matthew 27:12 (NASB)

<sup>12</sup> And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He did not answer.

## **H. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE PIERCED THROUGH HIS HANDS AND FEET.**

Psalms 22:16b (NASB)

<sup>16</sup> ...They pierced my hands and my feet.

This was fulfilled in Luke.

**Luke 23:33 (NASB)**

**33 When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left.**

Jesus was crucified in the usual Roman manner. His hands and feet were nailed to wooden posts with large spikes.

Interestingly, Roman crucifixion was unknown in Jewish law. Psalm 22 was written hundreds of years before crucifixion even came into existence as the preferred way to execute criminals. And so this was an astonishing fulfillment of prophecy.

## **II. SKEPTICS OF JESUS AS THE MESSIAH.**

### **A. JESUS DELIBERATELY FULFILLED THE PREDICTIONS.**

Skeptics say that Jesus read about the predictions in the Old Testament about the coming Christ. And so he deliberately set about to fulfill them in his own life so that people would believe that he was the Christ.

This objection might seem plausible at first glance. Jesus could have made an arrangement with his cousin, John the Baptist, to go before and “prepare the way” for him. He could have preached a message of the good news as foretold by Isaiah. And he could have entered Jerusalem on a donkey. He could have deliberately fulfilled a number of the predictions.

However, there were many predictions that were totally beyond the control of Jesus. There is no way he could have deliberately determined the place of his birth (Micah 5:2), the manner of his birth as being born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), his manner of death (Psalm 22:16), his burial in a rich man’s tomb (Isaiah 53:9), and so on.

And so, many of the 324 distinct predictions were totally beyond the control of Jesus to fulfill in his lifetime if He were only a man.

### **B. WRITERS MUST HAVE COLLABORATED BETWEEN THEMSELVES.**

Some skeptics have tried to contend that there must have been some collaboration between the many writers of the Bible. However, you must realize that the many Old Testament prophets lived over a 1000-year period but yet they gave detailed descriptions regarding the same events which have proven to be accurate. So the skeptics' charges of collaboration are not at all credible.

### **C. THE FULFILLMENT WAS COINCIDENTAL.**

Others claim that it was merely coincidental that all the predictions were fulfilled in Jesus. They say that one could find a number of these predictions being fulfilled in other people.

Yes, it is true that one or two (or even a handful!) of these predictions might have been fulfilled in other men. But it is impossible for all 324 predictions to be fulfilled in another single man.

Many of the prophecies required divine intervention. Such as...

- Being born to a virgin.
- Being both God and Man.
- He would heal the lame and make the blind to see.
- His body would be glorified in front of men.
- He would live a sinless life.
- He would be a perfect sacrifice for mankind and take on all of our sins.
- He would bring salvation to mankind.
- He would have an everlasting Kingdom.
- He would raise from the dead.

### **III. JESUS MUST BE THE MESSIAH!**

Thus we conclude that Jesus MUST truly be the Messiah!

#### **ILLUSTRATION:**

**Probability** is a branch of mathematics that measures the likelihood that a given event will occur. Every time you add a zero to the end of a number, it becomes 10 times bigger than the number it was added to. Thus 1 becomes 10, When you add a zero behind 10 becomes 100, 100 becomes 1,000, 1,000 becomes 10,000, 10,000 becomes 100,000, 100,000 becomes 1,000,000. Thus it only takes 6 zeros to get from one to one million. And the next number will be 10 times that!

Actually, just in regard to the eight prophecies that I listed for you in this message earlier, A man named Stoner in his book *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, calculated that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight predictions is 1 in 10 to the 17th power.” That would be 1 with 17 zeros behind it..

In order to help us comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner says that if we take 10 to the 17th power of silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas, they would cover the entire state of Texas two feet thick.

If we put an X on one of the silver dollars, mix them all up, and get a blind man to pick one at random, what chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from that day to the present time, providing they wrote them in their own wisdom.

The chance that he will get the one with the X on it, is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. The surface of the earth is 732.59 times bigger than the state of Texas. That means that if you only added three zeros behind the number of silver dollars in Texas, you would now have over two feet of silver dollars over the whole surface of the earth.

But Jesus, fulfilled not 8 prophecies, but over 300 of them. If the remaining 316 predictions were each as small as 1 in a 1000, each of them would add three zeros to the number. That means that the odds of one person fulfilling all of them would be 1 in 10 to the 965th power. that is a 1 with 965 zeros behind it. We cannot even comprehend how large that number is.

Now these prophecies were either given by inspiration of God or the prophets just wrote them as they thought they should be. In such a case the prophets had just one chance in 1 with 17 zeros behind it that only eight of the 324 predictions would come true in any man, but they all came true in Christ!

There is simply no way that it is coincidental that all 324 predictions came true in the person of Jesus Christ.

## **CONCLUSION:**

It would be difficult enough to predict something 5 years into the future, let alone 4-15 centuries into the future, especially with the degree of detail of these prophecies and with 100% accuracy. It would also be impossible for someone to plan to fulfill all the prophecies. The prophecies speak of specific events including timing, location, and circumstances of birth. Who but God alone could plan such things?

The Godhead is not bound by time and space. To them everything is as present time to us. They can see the prophecy being given and written down as well as being fulfilled at the same time. In other words, God already knew what was going to happen when He spoke the words through the Old Testament prophets. Christ was the creator and He already existed before His earthly appearance.

Jesus fulfilled 324 Old Testament prophecies that were written so man would be able to identify the Messiah when He came among us. They were not vague or simple prophecies that Jesus could have read about and then performed in order to try to deceive man that He was the Messiah. The laws of probability state that Jesus WAS THE MESSIAH.

That means that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and Savior of sinners that He claimed to be. God sent him to pay the penalty for our sin so that we can be reconciled to God.

If all of His prophecies were fulfilled while He was on earth, you can be assured that all future prophecy will be fulfilled also. Are you ready for Christ's second coming?

If you do not know Christ as your Lord and Savior, I invite you to come forward this morning and place your faith in Christ and be immersed in the waters of baptism for the forgiveness of your sins.

**He is Lord!**